



# the Inside Scoop...of OJJ

## Mission:

*The Office of Juvenile Justice protects the public by providing safe and effective individualized services to youth, who will become productive, law-abiding citizens.*



*Dr. Mary L. Livers, Deputy Secretary*

A favorite feature in *The Inside Scoop...of OJJ* has returned, along with BCCY Culinary Arts Instructor and chef extraordinaire, Chef Ron Sonnier. While Chef was out of the kitchen recuperating from knee replacement surgery, staff tried to keep his recipe of the month column going, but it just wasn't the same. We are happy that Chef is back, along with his great recipes. **Hammond RM Sue Larisey** tells us her family has been eating very well since she has been trying out the recipes. She says the recipes are great, easy to follow and the results are delicious. If you haven't tried one, check out the Recipe of the Month on page 22. Delicious!

At right is a photo of the sign on the property in Bunkie that will soon become home to our long-planned regional facility. I am delighted to share it with you. The property is just off U.S. Hwy. 71 South, so be sure to have a look when you are traveling through Bunkie. Everyone within OJJ will have the opportunity to help choose a name for the new facility – watch for a ballot box in your office or facility.



In the meantime, I hope you enjoy the current issue of *The Inside Scoop...of OJJ*, along with the beautiful (and long-awaited) fall weather.

“Doc” *Dr. Mary L. Livers*

## The Daily Motivator

### What it takes to persist

You already have what it takes to persist. For persistence is nothing more than continuing to do what you've been doing.

Persistence makes the difference between no achievement and great achievement. And persistence is available to all who choose it.

The enemy of persistence is that little voice you hear in your head that urges you to give up.

When you hear that voice, remember that you don't have to do what it says, and you don't have to fight it either.

Just listen to that voice, allow it to have its say, and then calmly let it go. Keep on going and you'll quickly be beyond it.

Remember often, with great detail and passion, why you've chosen to do what you're doing.

Keep your focus on the goal, and know that by continuing to progress on your journey, one step at a time, you'll get there.

Persistence isn't complicated, and it doesn't require you to uncover some deep, dark, closely guarded secret.

You have what it takes if you'll simply choose to do what it takes and persist until the job is done.

— Ralph Marston

## Staff Spotlight

### Spotlight on...



**PPO3  
James Percle,  
Thibodaux  
OJJ**

**PPO3 James Percle** discovered that he enjoys working with kids while coaching his children's T-ball, baseball and softball teams. With a new associate degree in criminal justice from Nicholls State University, he wanted to work with troubled juveniles, and OJJ seemed to be the logical place. That was nine years ago. He had found his calling.

**RM Angela Koenig** said, "James' dependability is unbelievable; his integrity is beyond reproach and he has tremendous organizational skills. As the office's training coordinator, James keeps track of all the training for everyone in the office. James is an extremely kind and gentle person and is liked by everyone in the office, and he works well with the youth. He is dependable and will do anything that is asked of him. James is a person that will never tell anyone "no" and he never complains. Everyone James comes in contact with has only good things to say about him. He not only has a great relationship with his co-workers but with everyone he works with in the community. James truly cares about the youth and always goes "above and beyond" to make sure their needs are met."

A native of the Thibodaux area, James grew up in Chackbay, and today he and his wife Tiffany and two children reside in Labadieville. They have five children age 14 to 26. He is also a proud grandparent of a granddaughter and a grandson.

After completing his education, James said he realized he had “taken a liking to being around kids.” Choosing a career field was easy, especially since being a PPO means no shift work – James enjoys working on weekdays, and having weekends and evenings with his family.

“I enjoy working with troubled youth,” James said. “We have to realize that only the youth can make the change. We never give up on a kid. Saving even one child who changes their life is a success in my book.”

“We give them a choice,” he continued. “They have to realize that you can’t make a change by heading down the wrong path. We hope the kids realize this before going deeper into the system. But still we don’t give up on them, and we will work with the kids until they become adults, able to make their own choices.”

*“We have to realize that only the youth can make the change. We never give up on a kid...Saving even one child who changes their life is a success in my book.”*

“We all make decisions in our lives and we do what we think is right. We learn by making mistakes,” James said. “All our kids made a mistake and some see what could happen to them and they never make another mistake like that again.”

James actually wears several hats at Thibodaux OJJ. He completed the NRA Firearms Instructor program and serves as the Thibodaux Office firearms instructor, as well as training coordinator. When he took over as training coordinator, TREC was just being implemented as the training tracking system. “It was a totally new system and I try to stay on top of it and keep TREC up and running,” he said. James makes sure that all staff at the office gets their required annual training. It

comes as no surprise that James has been selected Employee of the Month several times, and Employee of the Quarter at least once.

“We have to be ready to pass our ACA or any audit when the time comes,” James noted. “I make sure we have time allocated for training.” Training requirements under ACA regulations are more intense now, he said. He pointed out that staff members need to know OJJ policies that spell out why we do certain things.

James noted that a number of officers have been helping out at Bridge City recently, and still have to tend to their regular duties. Staff members constantly have to multi-task to keep up with the demands of the job, and co-workers often help one another out, he said. “We have good camaraderie in the office, it’s like a family,” he said. “When someone is out of the office, or on leave, the other officers will pick up the slack. We help each other out and no one lets their co-workers down.”

James took the first LAMOD class back in 2006, and he has taken the Motivational Interviewing class. It’s important to keep learning, James said. “Even at my age, I’m always learning something,” he noted. “We never stop learning. Sometimes we learn from our own children, like how to use computers! I had to ask my youngest daughter to show me how to download something on the computer. As a responsible parent, we have to know what our kids are doing, especially now with social media.”

*“Our job is to help our families, and our goal is to keep the kids out of custody.”*

“We as parents sometimes have the same issues at our homes, just like other parents with kids in the community,” he went on. “Our job is to help our families, and our goal is to keep the kids out of custody. We do what we have to do to try to keep families

together unless it's absolutely necessary for a child to be removed."

A lover of the great outdoors, James said his greatest interest is doing anything outside. "I could wake up at daybreak and stay outside all day," he said. James also enjoys watching sports, especially college football and baseball. He particularly roots for LSU, and says his office is filled with "LSU stuff."

One of James and Tiffany's children is playing middle school football and basketball. "It keeps us busy, going to the games," he said. With a daughter in high school, they are also playing chauffeur – "her social life takes her all over the place," James laughed. "We do what we do for our children because life is too short," he said. James said he has certainly experienced some stress, not only with his kids at home, but with some of the kids he supervises as well. "I've got a few gray hairs as proof!" he said.

"No matter how bad things get, I try to make jokes and make people smile," James said. "When you think you are down and out, you stop and realize that other people are worse off."

James said that at some point, he may consider retiring. "If I am in good health and have the opportunity, I may do some consulting. I think I have a lot of insight in how to work with troubled youth." But for the foreseeable future, James continues to serve the children and families of Thibodaux OJJ, doing what comes naturally and daily meeting the mission.

### CQIS Policy Updates

The following policies were approved in August:

- A.2.3 Outside Employment, Second Jobs
- A.2.46 Employee Grievance Procedure
- A.2.59 Salaries of Education Administrators and Instructors in Secure Facilities
- A.2.62 Staff/Youth Relationships

- A.3.7 Procurement of Supplies/Equipment
- A.3.10 LaCarte Purchasing Card
- A.3.13 Office of Telecommunications Management (OTM) Land Lines
- A.3.14 Contract Provider Financial and Performance Reporting
- A.5.1 Access to, Security of, and Use of Information Technology Resources and Mobile Devices
- A.5.6 Internet and E-Mail Usage
- A.5.8 Blackberry Usage
- A.5.10 Information Technology (IT) Technical Support
- B.2.7 LAMOD Program and Youth Stage Procedures
- B.2.15 Substance Abuse Treatment Program
- B.3.2 Access to and Release of Active and Inactive Youth Records
- B.8.4 Religious or Faith-Based Programs and Services
- B.8.6 Marriage Requests
- B.8.12 Secure Care Youth Orientation
- C.1.4 Attorney Visits
- C.4.3 Mandatory Reporting of Abuse & Neglect of Youth

**Rescinded:** DYS Policy 10.29 Reporting Child Abuse & Maltreatment of Juveniles

### OJJ Wins PREA Grant

OJJ applied for a PREA grant from the U.S. Department of Justice and we were notified in September that we have received the grant.

Only 1/3 of the grant recipients were juvenile justice agencies. With the grant money, OJJ will work to evaluate and improve policies and institutional culture regarding PREA (the Prison Rape Elimination Act).

We plan to work with consultants to conduct intensive and thorough assessments of our facilities, policies, procedures, and institutional culture regarding PREA.

We will also use the evaluative efforts of the LSU School of Social Work to provide qualitative and quantitative readings of our



culture, and to monitor our progress in implementing corrective action plans offered by the Moss Group.

We will work with data consultants to develop an automated incident reporting process to allow us to obtain information on incidents as they occur in our facilities. By automating our incident reporting system and providing a repository of data, OJJ will be able to eliminate reliance on counting incidents on paper, will be equipped to monitor PREA-related incidents as they occur, and can produce trend reports to identify and compare patterns, locations, etc., of incidents.

OJJ will plan two leadership summits that we believe will yield training curricula, a body of knowledge to share with other juvenile justice agencies, lasting regional collaboration among Southern states, and massive improvements in OJJ's system, to include the elimination of inappropriate sexual activities in secure facilities.

Our main goal with this grant is to improve the culture and accountability of the OJJ system as it relates to PREA, and to influence other southern states to do the same by learning from our improvements.

## Thibodaux Regional Office

### Congratulations

### Employee of the Month

**PPS Vicky Marcel** is the August **Employee of the Month**. Vicky is a valuable asset to our team in Thibodaux.

**Youth Bart R.** graduated from the Youth Challenge Program. His PPO is **Summer Ferreira**.

### Welcome

We would like to welcome our intern from Nicholls State University, **Sarah Bilello**. She will complete her internship at T-OJJ and is scheduled to graduate in December. Welcome aboard, Sarah. We are very glad to have you here.

### Farewell

We bid farewell to **Adm. Supervisor Connie Becnel**, who retired with 34 years of service to Thibodaux OJJ. We wish her the very best, and owe her enormous gratitude for all the years of dedication and service she has given.



### Kids Attend Career Day Program

**AMI Kids Bayou Region** held its annual Career Day in August at Peltier Park in Thibodaux. It was a huge success. The kids were able to attend different workshops conducted by the following local supporters, providers and non-profit organizations: **Magnolia Family Services, Head Start, Bikers Against Child Abuse, Unitech Training, Troy Brown, Justin Verdin, Ellis Bonneventure, Donald Ruth**, a local minister, **Attorney Damon Brown, Dwayne Jones** from Houma City Court, **Lt. Nolan Smith** from the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office, AMI board members **Bernard Levy, B.J. Francis, and Kay Bergeron**, who all came out to support the event.

Donations were provided by the following supporters: **Castalano's Deli, Cannatta's Food World, Picadilly Cafeteria, Olive Garden, Chuck Weaver with South Louisiana Bank, Earl Williams Clothing Store, Target, Jane Messingburg and Joe Waitz, Terrebonne Parish District Attorney.**

## Students Give Back to Seniors

AMIkids Donaldsonville conducted its third annual National Service Week. Students from Ascension, Assumption and St. James parishes visited D'ville Nursing Home in Donaldsonville, Heritage Manor in Napoleonville, and Lutch Senior Center in Lutch, during their nationwide Service from the Heart for Seniors conducted in September. The students played games, participated in birthday parties, and assisted the residents in daily activities.

"I think this was a beneficial and an enlightening experience for our kids and staff," said **Joshua Riley**, Case Manager/Event Coordinator. "It also provided the senior citizens the opportunity to have a couple of hours filled with energy and excitement as they interacted with the youth."

## Tallulah Regional Office

### Staff Attend Excellent Training Class

**RM Ruth Stephens, PPS Margo Corulla, PPO3's Jena McCattry, Kim Green and Fred Laing, PPO2s Janet Pierce, Robert Johnson and Jessica Southern** from the Tallulah OJJ attended a training class on domestic violence and protective orders sponsored by the Louisiana Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, and Wellspring, hosted by the Franklin Parish Sheriff's Office at the parish detention center near Winnsboro.

The class educated officers on the legal definition of domestic violence, state domestic violence laws, identifying predominate aggressors in abuse cases and the mandatory responsibilities and personal liabilities of officers/first responders to domestic violence cases. The class was very educational and everyone learned a great deal. We also had fun. Some class attendees participated in a role playing skit, with **PPO Jessica Southern** being the victim of abuse and **PPO Robert Johnson** being the very convincing batterer.

We left the training armed with knowledge needed to better serve our clients and their families. We highly recommend this course.

### Safety Tips Presented

**PPS Johnnie Bowman, Captain Harold Allen** of the Dare Program and **Raymond Doyle, Acting Fire Chief**, were invited by Madison Place Apartments to give presentations on safety tips to the elderly.

### Youth Succeeds with Staff Support

**Jason B.** was placed in secure custody at Swanson in April 2009. While at SCY, he had no write-ups, volunteered for extra details, both on and off campus, and earned his GED. He took the ACT in early 2011. Jason earned an early release and began classes at Grambling State University in August, through Bossier Community College. He is living on campus at Grambling. Jason's counselor at SCY, **Jerome Dixon**, went well above and beyond the call by assisting Jason in the application process, and providing transportation to and from Grambling for enrollment. When Jason enrolled, he learned that he needed a \$200 deposit for his dorm room. In less than an hour, the staff of SCY contributed \$235.00 to cover the deposit. Kudos to the entire SCY staff for their encouragement and support of Jason.



*JCY Adm. Asst. Anne Carter shares this photo entitled "A September evening on the porch."*

## Swanson Center for Youth

### SCY Celebrates Passing ACA Audit

After doing so well on the ACA audit, Swanson had a week of celebration. The week started out with cake served to all staff on Monday. Tuesday, the night shift was served delicious cinnamon rolls and the day and evening shifts received a barbecue lunch. Thanks to **LAMOD Coordinator John Preston** and **JJS6 Vernon Foy** for getting up so early to start the grills! Wednesday, the youth were out of school and went to the gym to watch a movie on the "big screen."

**Director Carolyn Atkins** was honored on Thursday with a surprise ceremony. **Acting Deputy Director William Lee** told Director Atkins that he needed her in the chapel. Once they got there, she found a number of staff and youth waiting for her. Two youth from each dorm made presentations to Director Atkins; some had poems prepared, and some placed a rose in a vase. At the conclusion of the presentation, Director Atkins had a bouquet of a dozen long-stemmed red roses. Staff also presented her with an "Outstanding Leadership" plaque.

Director Atkins sent out a special message that afternoon to let everyone know how much that meant to her.

Director Atkins said, "I was overwhelmed and the tears flowed. To hear my angels tell me how much I mean to them, how much they love me and how I have made a difference in their lives...I cannot put into words how my heart was touched. Staff presented me with a plaque for Outstanding Leader. I love all of my angels and I love you. It is because of your love and support that I am the leader that I am."

Friday, was WATER DAY!! We had two slip-n-slides set up under the trees and the youth had a ball!

## Fun Day Held for Youth

Swanson held its annual "Fun Day" for youth. The gym was set up with a hockey table, pool table, cake walk, face painting, karaoke, and popcorn and snow cone machines. **Director Carolyn Atkins** even tested out the karaoke machine, "just to make sure it was working!"



*Above, staff and youth playing the hockey table. Below, Director Atkins trying out the karaoke machine.*



## Youth Attend Play at the Civic Center

Two youth from each dorm and several staff attended a play at the Monroe Civic Center. "Chosen" is a play about the day-to-day struggles kids face in their lives.



### Vacation Bible School Held

Swanson held its annual Vacation Bible School (VBS) for youth. **Chaplain Rev. Ricky James** did a wonderful job (as usual) of getting the volunteers organized, and did everything else that goes with planning a week of Bible school.



*Staff and volunteers at VBS, from left: JJS Kimberly Cook, JJS Harry Ferguson, volunteers Minister Brenda Davis, Minister Bessie Davis, Lavonne Jackson and Diane Nelson.*

### Epiphany Reunion Held

Epiphany Ministry, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation and ecumenical, lay-led ministry whose mission is "To Show Christ's Love to Troubled and Incarcerated Youth." The ministry offers courses in Christianity and an on-going follow-up process to incarcerated youth.

During a recent Epiphany reunion, volunteers in the group had the youth make cards for Louisiana soldiers stationed overseas, who have not received any mail. The names of the soldiers are **LTC J. Randy LeBlanc**, **1SG Toland Hughes**, **SFC Hilton Lloyd**, **SS Christopher Lee** and **Sgt. Kristy Price**.



*Epiphany youth making cards for Louisiana soldiers stationed overseas.*

### Where Monsters Can Grow

**Social Service Counselor Marsha Fountain** found this poem and processed it with the youth in Holly D during group:

Beware of the monsters  
Who dwell in the mind  
Who grow in the shelter  
of shadows they find.

Beware of the demons  
Who hide from the light  
Who only survive  
When our spirits lose sight.

Those creatures can thrive  
Where our knowledge is low  
They fill in spaces  
of what we don't know.

Beware of the monsters  
That cause us to hate  
To strike out in anger  
When we can't relate

For ignorance darkens  
The mind and the heart,  
And helps all our monsters  
To tear us apart.

But learning and thinking  
Will strengthen us so  
We won't be the places  
Where monsters can grow.



*Blue Hibiscus in Maui, Hawaii.*



## Shreveport Regional Office

### Congratulations

**PPO 2 LaNita Lars** was named August **Employee of the Month**. She is a very hard worker and a great asset to our office. Congrats!



**OJJ Deputy Secretary Dr. Mary Livers** and **DAS Karen Stubbs** visited our office from August 29 to September 2. Both attended several meetings with local agencies and elected officials.

**PPO 1 Matthew Carter** started the POST Training Academy in August. We wish him the best of luck and are eagerly awaiting his return to the office



**PPO 1 Ciera Murphy** welcomed a **baby girl, Aaliyah Marie**, on August 29. Aaliyah weighed in at 6 lbs., 13 ozs. and 19½ inches long.

In late August officers from all over the state were called to assist Bridge City Center for Youth. Shreveport OJJ pitched in to help and sent down many officers to work multiple shifts.

## New Orleans/Jefferson Regional Office

### Congratulations



**PPO Glenda Bryant** was selected August **Employee of the Month**. Glenda is always

dependable, completes her assignments timely and has a positive attitude when unforeseen circumstances arise. Glenda is an extremely hard working and dedicated employee.

### LGBTQ Training Presented

**Social Worker Roxann Tuircuit, LMSW**, conducted a training session on Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) awareness at New Orleans OJJ. Roxann completed the Lambda Legal/National Association of Social Workers training program, *Moving the Margins: Curriculum for Child Welfare Services with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Youth in Out-of-Home Care*, along with OJJ staff, including **Director of Staff Development Fran Martin**, **Director of Treatment Annette Arthur** and several secure care staff.

Roxann said there was a need to enhance the staff awareness, so she created a PowerPoint presentation covering an overview of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) issues.

The goals and objectives of the training were to increase staff knowledge, awareness and empathy regarding the unique stressors experienced by sexual and gender minority youth; to increase understanding of the issues around coming out and how it might impact youth, and to recognize that coming out is not about sexual behavior, but about identity and relationships, both critical to youth development.

## Natchitoches Regional Office

### Congratulations



August **Employee of the Month** was **Administrative Coordinator 4 Rosa Brownlee**.

### Staff Attend Training Class

**Program Specialist Monique Lacour** and **PPO2 Heather Christophe** attended LAMOD training in August.

### Baby Shower Held

Staff held a baby shower for **PPO2 Deanna Williams**, whose baby girl, **Asialyn Moriah McNulty**, was born Aug. 25, weighing 5 lbs., 8 oz., and 20.5 inches long.

### Welcome



We welcome **Reatha Aaron**, NSU intern for the fall semester.



*Horned Chameleon in Maui, Hawaii.*

## Monroe Regional Office

### Youth Success Provides Bragging Rights

**PPO3 Jennifer Bible** has reason to brag about a former client. **Patrice P.** is a junior at St. Fredrick's High School, and asked her former PPO to write a letter of recommendation to the Tulane Science Scholars Program, a very selective program for high school students who have exceptional talent in the sciences. Jennifer, as well as one of Patrice's teachers, wrote a letter of recommendation for her earlier this year, and Patrice was recently notified of her acceptance into the program. Congratulations!

### Defensive Tactics Refresher Course Conducted

Monroe OJJ conducted a Defensive Tactics Refresher in August. The instructors for the 16 hour class were **PPO3 Patrick Cooper** and **PPO3 Gary Hunter**. All participants did well on the written and practical elements of the test. Monroe OJJ would like to thank **RM Johnny Qualls** and Alexandria OJJ for allowing **Gary Hunter** to attend their DT Refresher.



*PPO2 Valerie Nordstrom and Adm. Coordinator Kashka Flintroy in the Defensive Tactics course.*



*Learning defensive tactics are PO2 Reginald Chaptman and PPO2 Gregory Colvin.*



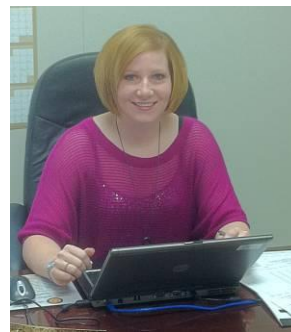
*PPO2 Cheryl Pringle and PPO2 Jeremy Keyes practice defensive tactics at the recent refresher course.*

### Training Sessions Hosted

**RM Patty Newman** and Monroe OJJ hosted LAMOD Residential Training in August. Five regions were represented. The training was conducted by **Director of Treatment Annette Arthur**, **LAMOD Coordinator Alona Morgan**, **Jetson LAMOD Coordinator Fouard Harb**, **Director of Staff Development Fran Martin**, **Program Manager Nancy Gautreau** and **Swanson Treatment Director Kathy Powell**. **PPO3 David McMillan** attended the training to

become the LAMOD Trainer for Monroe OJJ. Good job, David.

Also in August, **PPS Karl Wallace** conducted mandatory safety training due to policy revisions. Topics included Monroe OJJ's safety policy/plan, safety rules and regulations, emergency preparedness, and accident/incident investigation. Karl and **PPO3 Erica Hollingworth** do an excellent job as the safety officers for Monroe OJJ. We appreciate their hard work!



### PPO Nordstrom's Accomplishments Shine

Monroe OJJ would like to recognize the accomplishments of one of our own, **PPO2 Valerie Nordstrom**. Valerie received a 2011-2012 Advantage Scholarship to the College of Public Affairs and Community Service, University of Nebraska at Omaha. Valerie earned a 4.0 for the summer session, with an overall 3.967, and has two semesters left to complete her Masters in Public Administration.

On the strength of a paper addressing organizational change in OJJ, Valerie's professor nominated her for the 2011-2012 Founders' Forum Fellowship from the American Society of Public Administration (ASPA). If Valerie receives the fellowship, she will present a paper at the annual ASPA Conference in Las Vegas in 2012 and serve as a mentor in ASPA's pilot student mentoring program.

In addition to Valerie's academic accomplishments, she was a finalist in an international screenplay writing contest called the Creative World Awards. Valerie made it through to the semi-finalist round before being eliminated. Monroe OJJ is proud of our newest PPO. Good job, Valerie!



## Lake Charles Regional Office

### OJJ Anniversaries Celebrated

On August 16, Lake Charles OJJ celebrated **RM Ann Vick's** 40<sup>th</sup> OJJ Anniversary: 40 years of service to the agency!

**PPO3 Delisa Clark** celebrated 6 years of return to service in August, though she has 15+ years of overall OJJ service.

**PPO3 Alexis Heflin** celebrated 5 years of service in August.

### Welcome

**PPO 3 Stefanie Krygowski** joined our office in August. Stefanie has already been a great help and is wonderful asset to our office.

### Community Service and Activities

**PPO3 Delisa Clark** and **Program Specialist Karli Pullard** attended the AMIkids Southwest softball tournament. They pitched in to work the concession stand.



### Hello/Goodbye

We bid farewell to **Transport Officer Corey Harmon** in August, as he is now enrolled as a full time university student. We threw a going away celebration to wish him the best.

OJJ welcomed new **Transport Officer Kelly St. Germain**. Kelly has demonstrated a great attitude and willingness to do whatever is needed to get the job done.

### Team Building Exercise

In August, Lake Charles OJJ staff participated in team building and a game of volleyball on the beach, and had a office lunch at Ryan's, as an extension of PPO Appreciation Week in July. Supervisors provided drinks to further show their appreciation for the PPOs.



*Fred Fontenot, Garrick Chambers (pointing), PPS Ken Vidrine, Jeff Haley, Ronald Gilchrist. Monet Newman, Karli Pullard, Delisa Clark, Rebecca Harmon (laying down), and Angie Steven at our delayed PPO Appreciation Day celebration.*

### Kudos

The challenge of effectively communicating transportation needs and transportation assignments was creatively resolved by **PPO3 Fred Fontenot**, our new transport coordinator. Fred created a database on SharePoint that makes the transport schedule and pending requests accessible to all and makes edits extremely user friendly. This was a GREAT use of technology in order to effectively share information.

**PPO3 Fred Fontenot** arranged a basketball game at Boys Village (BV) - Probation Officers vs. BV Residents. This was an extension of PPCT training so officers could assess their cardiovascular health, and it promoted informal interactions between staff and kids. All officers went to Boy's Village to

compete in the basketball game with the residents. The kids WON by a landslide.... PPOs definitely lost!!! And, it was hottttttt, but it was lots of fun. Time well spent.

Lake Charles OJJ displayed extreme professionalism for the BCCY call of duty. **100% of our staff volunteered** to cover BCCY shifts, and we had few complaints. Special thanks to our Tier 1 Team (our "first-string volunteers") who all worked the Labor Day weekend on short notice and prep time. The Tier I Team knocked down walls so the rest of us could walk through them, and we especially appreciate all of you. Tier 1 and our first round of volunteers included **Fred Fontenot, Rebecca Harmon, Stefanie Krygowski, Ronald Gilchrist, Ken Vidrine, Garrick Chambers** and **Angie Stevens**. All officers, supervisors and program specialists did their part and pulled their weight. Staff viewed this assignment as a great challenge, but also demonstrated that Lake Charles OJJ can rise to the challenge.

### Training and Community Activities

**Sex Offender Treatment Coordinator Dr. Yolanda Crump** and **RM Ann Vick** led a sexual offender training at Boy's Village for all our residential programs now housing sex offenders, including the new Methodist Children's Home in Sulphur. **PPS Ken Vidrine** and **Program Specialist Karli Pullard** attended the presentation, part of the Juvenile Sex Offender Treatment Program (JSOTP) model. Staff reported the training was extremely informative.

**RM Ann Vick** and **PPS Melissa Cross** attended the recent Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Continued Quality Initiative (CQI) meeting. During this inter-agency meeting, **Dawn Becton** of DCFS recognized our local Working Together for Families (WTF) Committee, specifically the OJJ team members, **PPO Monet Newman** and **PPS Melissa Cross**, for assisting with an extremely challenging case. DCFS professed

gratitude for the spirit of cooperation routinely brought to this committee by OJJ.

**PPS Ken Vidrine** successfully completed the Firearms Transition Course and qualified with his weapon. Goodbye to "Barney Phyfe," but you are still known as "the loooooong arm of the law."

**Firearms Instructor Garrick Chambers** had his first opportunity to run the range and act in his capacity as instructor. Garrick is determined to do a good job and meet and exceed all of OJJ's expectations of firearms instructors.

All staff completed PPCT recertification in August.

### Youths' Success Noted

**Erin D., PPO3 Alexis Heflin's** client, enrolled in college. She is a student at Sowela Technical Community College in Lake Charles.

**Alexis' client Gerald M.**, a local Transitional Living Program youth, was recently featured in Football Highlights on KPLC TV.

**PPO Monet Newman's** client, **Lopez B.**, has been assisting other students / classmates with assignments as help is needed. Lopez successfully completed the St. Martin Short-term secure program, and he has been very successful. Lopez is Lake Charles OJJ's first graduate from this program.

### Thanks

**PPO 3 Fred Fontenot's** daughter cooked for us on SAVRY training day. Many other staff volunteered to bring side dishes.

**RM Ann Vick** provided pizza and a leadership movie, *The Perfect Game*, on Stay-in-Day, an extension of P&P Appreciation Week. It was treated as a teachable moment, and the staff raved about the movie, saying it is well worth seeing.

**Dr. Mary Livers** recently visited the Lake Charles/Deridder area and attended a meeting of the Beauregard Planning Board. "Doc" spoke to many of our PPOs during her visit. The Beauregard Parish team and the Lake Charles OJJ office was honored by her presence at the board meeting, and by her willingness to share her vision for juvenile justice reform and our agency's future plans.

Summer vacations continued through the month and trips included Galveston beach, Destin, Florida and Gulf Shores, Alabama. A little more relaxation just before school started!

## Lafayette/Opelousas Regional Office

**RM Susan Miller** thanked the Lafayette regional staff for pulling together over the past few weeks and assisting BCCY during the recent staff shortages. RM Miller stated, "From the day staff was notified that we would be needed, the staff pulled together to cover all shifts at the facility, and our work continued in the regional offices." She also thanked the supervisors for working with the staff and ensuring the work that needed to be done was completed without interruption.

Several probation officers attended the CPTP course "Professionalism and Productivity" for non-supervisory staff.

**PPO Scott Peyton** is supervising a youth who became homicidal at school and began threatening to harm others. Following his outburst, he left the school. School officials phoned Scott, and about 45 minutes later, the client showed up at the Opelousas office seeking help from PPO Peyton. **RM Susan Miller** said, "This is yet another example of the excellent work the officers do and the trust the youth have in their PPOs."

**PPO Chase Cappel, PPS Joey Denais, RM Susan Miller and Family Liaison Donna Bowie** planned and coordinated the first Parent Empowerment Network meeting, held at the Lafayette OJJ office in August. Turn out by parents was great! The next meeting was scheduled for September. The meetings are held on Saturday to accommodate parents.



*The Parent Empowerment Network meeting in Lafayette.*

**PPO Jamie Wallace** was recently informed that a client's family home burned down. She researched local agencies to find assistance and helped the family find a new home.

**PPO Kevin Broussard** volunteered for the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Games of Acadiana, to benefit Miles Perret Cancer Services, at the Lafayette Cajundome. Kevin worked a full day running the Operation Game Booth.



*Plumeria, aka frangipani, Maui, Hawaii.*



## Jetson Center for Youth

### Youth Enjoy Field Trip

**By Denise Clause, Life Skills Instructor**

Youth on the move...8 selected youth, dressed in polo shirts and cargo shorts, anxiously boarded the van as we headed out on another adventure! **Verdell L., Ulanza H., Demarcus G., Cody S., Dequante W., Derrick H., Romero R. and Bryan M.** were selected to attend the field trip, based on improved behavior and academic progress.

Our first stop was to tour the USS Kidd, a World War II destroyer. We had a wonderful tour guide who took us up and down and all around the boat. Did you know that over 300 sailors had to share four showers and were only allowed 35 seconds in which to shower? The sailors were only allowed to shower once every 3 to 4 days. Youth tried on navy helmets, laid down in the bunks and pretended to man the machine guns. Even **Director Daron Brown** tried on a helmet for size.

The youth were lucky enough to meet **Mr. Earl Flatt**, a WWII Marine veteran of Iwo Jima. This 36 day battle resulted in more than 23,000 U.S. casualties and was one of the bloodiest battles of WWII. Mr. Flatt was in Baton Rouge for the "Keep the Spirit of 45 Alive" event at the Old State Capitol.

After touring the USS Kidd and the Veterans Memorial museum, we headed to the State Capitol. The youth enjoyed a tour and a trip to the top of the capitol building to get an arial view of Baton Rouge. They were really excited about being able to see part of Tiger Stadium. They also enjoyed seeing and hearing the story of how Huey P. Long was shot in the Capitol, and seeing the pencil that has been stuck in the ceiling for over 40 years in the House of Representatives' chamber.

We were hot and hungry after touring, so we headed to a downtown Baton Rouge

restaurant, Riverside Patty, for GIANT homemade hamburgers and fries - yum yum! We all made "happy plates" and left with our bellies full and smiles on our faces.

We would like to thank Director Brown, who took time out of his very busy schedule preparing for ACA, to make this field trip happen for our youth. He really walks the talk...it is all about the kids! A special thanks to our chaperones **Social Services Counselor Courtney Robottom, JJS Jewel "Mama" Veal, Coach Richard Carroll, JJS Kelly Johnson and Life Skills Instructor Denise Clause.** The youth are anxiously looking forward to another field trip next month.

### Volunteer Training Conducted

**By Barbara Williams, Volunteer Services Coordinator**

Forty-one volunteers representing 10 churches and prison ministries attended the annual orientation training. Some volunteers have been coming to Jetson over 30 years. All appreciated the opportunity to minister to the youth and were very sincere in their efforts.

There were six trainers, **Director Daron Brown, Program Manager Belinda Thomas, LAMOD Coordinator Fouad Harb, Kimberly Ringgold, JJS Kelly Johnson and Barbara Williams. Adm. Asst. Cynthia Booker** welcomed the volunteers.

The training opened with a LAMOD check-in where the volunteers expressed their happiness to be at Jetson and their surprise at the number of volunteers present. Two youth from Spring Dormitory read words of appreciation to the volunteers.

Director Brown gave the volunteers a brief overview and he asked the volunteers to invite the youth to visit their church services, and he ensured them that the facility would make every effort to attend.

He also expressed the need for additional volunteers, tutors, mentors, etc. Certificates of appreciation were presented to each church group and to individuals. Director Brown invited the volunteers to the September celebration with the staff and youth.

One volunteer expressed her group's interest in attending activities at Jetson and they were assured that volunteers would be invited. After the training, we received verbal and e-mail thanks and appreciation for the interesting and informative training.



*Above three photos: volunteers came out to attend the orientation / training so they may minister to our youth.*

## Words of Appreciation

When I asked these two youth if they would like to express their thanks to the volunteers for coming to Jetson, they did not hesitate to say yes. The below words are from their hearts.

“On behalf of Jetson Center for Youth, I would like to thank each of you for taking time out of your busy schedule to share the Gospel with us. I myself have learned a lot from your teaching. I like to make notes so when reading my Bible I can get a better understanding of God’s Word.

Again, we would like to thank you for all that you do, not only to make this world a better place but most importantly for spreading the word of GOD.”

**Vedell L.**  
Spring Dormitory

“Good morning everyone, my name is D.Y. I’ve been here at Jetson for a year and 6 months now and I would like to thank each and everyone that has taken time out of their busy schedule to make a change in other youths’ lives. No matter what we are going through you all have always come with a lesson in the Bible that has to do with something that we are going through and it helps us make it through. So I would like to thank everyone for giving us confidence, faith and encouragement.

Thank You.”  
**Donald Y.**  
Spring Dormitory

## Volunteer Training Conducted for St. Patrick Catholic Church

Volunteers from St. Patrick Catholic Church requested that Jetson staff train their volunteers. Prior to the training, they served a jambalaya dinner for the trainers and volunteers, as well as their spouses and guests.

There were 18 volunteers and four JCY trainers, **Program Manager Belinda Thomas, JJS Kelly Johnson, Instructor Kimberly Ringgold** and **Adm. Asst./Volunteer Services Coordinator Barbara Williams**.



*Volunteer training for St. Patrick's Catholic Church.*

The volunteers were very attentive. The training started with the Mission and Vision of the Office of Juvenile Justice and it was emphasized that their volunteering contributes greatly to our accomplishing the goals of OJJ.

Kelly Johnson conducted the LAMOD check-in and we explained the reasons for the check-in. On behalf of Jetson, Belinda Thomas presented a certificate of appreciation to the volunteers. Kimberly Ringgold read the words of appreciation two youth had written for the volunteer training.

The training was well received and the volunteers requested that we return next year for the annual volunteer training.

The next day, **Mr. Paul Geissler**, the contact person for St. Patrick Catholic Church volunteers, sent the following, "We all want to thank you, Kelly, Belinda and Kimberly for taking time to present the training session last night. As the audience was mostly St Patrick volunteers, we feel that that a lot of specific questions were brought up and answered. Your appreciation of our efforts came through loud and clear and for that we are thankful and greatly encouraged."

## Star Student Writes Article

This article was written by **Emanuel R.**, Spring Dorm, a student who is on track to earning his GED. **Principal Ronnie Knox** is pushing this student to graduate as his next big step.

## The Good, The Bad, The Ugly

**By Youth Emanuel R.**

I believe that all things happen for a reason. I live with that belief every day. I am Emanuel R. and I am 18 years old. I have been incarcerated since I was 15 and I was sentenced to juvenile life. Incarceration is neither all good nor all bad. It is a chance to re-evaluate your life and make changes in your life.

Trouble is easy to get into and hard to get out of. I have heard it plenty of times growing up, but unfortunately I had to learn it the hard way. Listening to officers telling you what to do, when to do, where to do, and how to do is not what's good. All options, independence and manhood are stripped away from you. You do what you are told and not what you want.

Respect goes a long way in jail, but you must earn it and that is not an easy thing to do. But in order to earn respect, you must give respect, which is difficult to do when the people you are around, you don't even know. You are surrounded by different races, different beliefs and all types of attitudes.

Sometimes stressing could become the most dangerous tool of an incarcerated youth. Stress can come from any direction when you are locked up. A sad letter telling you that there was death in the family and you missed it; a phone call that was placed and went unanswered; a promise from family that they will visit and they never show up can all be situations that cause a man to stress. And what's even scarier is the fact that you'll never



know what the next man has on his mind until he tells you.

In spite of all the negatives, jail can also prove to be a place of recovery and restoration. An incarcerated youth has time to collect his thoughts, regain focus and plan for a better future.

Counselors are available for conversations when needed. A youth could even recover from drug abuse while incarcerated - so everything about jail is not always a bad thing.

In conclusion, the reason why I wrote about being incarcerated is because my decisions in life have landed me here; and while I am not proud of some of my choices, I am proud to say that I have changed. I may not be what I want to be, but at least I am not what I used to be.

## Hammond Regional Office

### SUPERSTAR!

**PPO3 Dana May** was the August Superstar. She was recognized by **PPO2 Jamie Oertel** for doing a video conference for her.

### Training

In August, staff completed training on the Travel Policy, Bloodborne Pathogens, and OJJ Policy and Procedure.

### Celebration

**RM Sue Larisey** and **PPS Johnny Prentice** treated staff to a cookout recently. Hamburgers and hotdogs with all the fixings were served. This was a great boost to morale for everyone in the office!

### Getting Involved

**PPO3 Shirley Verberne** participated in training for the Crime Stoppers Tangipahoa (CST) Student Crime Stoppers program educational component, Operation Snowball. During the training, she was certified to assist in facilitating the program in conjunction with the CST Student Program, in developing a youth leadership program addressing prevention issues. The training was geared towards developing a youth-based leadership and prevention program for community coalitions or task forces. Once the program gets off the ground, some of our youth will be able to receive services and have positive peers to associate with, along with mentors, on a volunteer basis.



*Pictured are PPO3 Shirley Verberne, Mary Jo Davies with the Illinois Alcohol and Drug Dependence Association, and Jodie Powell, CEO of Tangipahoa/St. Helena Parish Crime Stoppers.*



*A tropical lily in Maui, Hawaii.*

## Central Office

### Congratulations

**Administrative Assistant Gwen Brinkley** got a new granddaughter Sept. 12. **Brinkley Camille-Rae Barrow** weighed in at 6 lbs., 13.8 oz. Gwen reports that her **daughter and son-in-law, Tiffany and Wendell Barrow**, chose a modern water birth, an interesting experience for all. Two year old **Elijah** is adjusting well to becoming a big brother.

**HR Manager Judy Landry** noted that volunteers from her church, Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Denham Springs, received a certificate of appreciation from Jetson, thanking them for their ministry there. **Deacon Rudy Stahl** is a very active volunteer at Jetson.

## Bridge City Center for Youth

### Unanswered Questions, One Truth

Originally written by Youth D. J.  
Student of Culinary Arts at  
Jetson Center for Youth  
September 18, 2001

Submitted by Chef Ronald Sonnier,  
BCCY Culinary Arts Instructor



As one mourning nation  
We must all rise to the occasion

Of this indescribable event  
Every eye should be opened and every hand  
should be lent  
A world filled with anger  
Just going to work, you're in danger  
How do we cope?  
Hurting inside how do we keep hope?

What a tragedy this has been  
For our neighbors and all their kin  
What will happen next?  
How will this nation ever rest?  
Indescribable the way that we feel  
It seems like a dream but yet it's for real  
Such acts of hatred and horror  
Dreams of today shattered for tomorrow  
Our nation's worst fears  
Acted out in minutes, mapped out for years  
A whole nation is crying  
Patriotic spirits are faintly dying  
But we haven't lost track of who we are  
Because of devastating acts of hate and war  
How could a nightmare like this come true?  
How can one person help? What can I do?  
How can we retaliate to these crucial attacks?  
How can we separate opinions from facts?  
Who's to say two wrongs will make it right?  
Or that justice will be served from merely a  
fight  
Is it not worth it? Has America failed?  
We shall hold our breath for there is none to  
exhale  
There are a lot of unanswered questions, and  
because of this we're ignited  
But there is one great truth, and that's we  
stand firm and united.

### Congratulations

**Administrative Assistant Alana Burke** announced the marriage of her son, **Kelly Burke**, to **D'Andra McKay**, on August 13. The wedding was held at the River Town Heritage Hall in Kenner. The newlyweds honeymooned in Orlando, Florida.



## Baton Rouge Regional Office

August was a very busy month for the staff at Baton Rouge OJJ. We started out the month with CPR/First Aid Training conducted by **JJS Kelly Johnson** and **LAMOD Coordinator Fouad Harb** from Jetson Center for Youth. Thanks y'all, because of you we are all ready and able to run to the rescue of anyone in need.

Also in August, along with getting our own kids ready for the upcoming school year, many of us, with the help of the counselors from our contracted programs such as Cadence, Trackers, and Family Preservation, went out into the communities we serve and helped the kids on our caseloads get ready as well. Many of us assisted with registration, purchased uniforms and school supplies for the kids to make sure that the first day of school went on without a hitch. Now that school is in session, we are still out making sure that our kids are all off to a great start!

## Congratulations

### Employee of the Month

Congratulations to **PPO Keelen Robinson**, August

Employee of the Month. Keelen was selected by his coworkers because of his kind heart, his willingness to help anyone in need and his ability to bring laughter to any situation. Keelen works hard with the youth on his caseload to help them to realize that they cannot live their lives as seen on television. He strives to be a role model for the kids he serves. He does his best to show them what it is to be a real man, one who works hard, takes care of himself and his family, and respects



others. He stresses to them that life is not about what you see on television or hear about in songs. He tries to instill in the kids that life is about working hard to get what you want and not the far-fetched media image of what success looks like. Keelen develops a bond with the kids that help them to trust him and understand that he wants the best for them.

## We See You, and You're Looking Good!

**PPO Patsy Adams** recently stepped in to help the victims of a car accident she witnessed on her way home. Patsy reported seeing the crash and judging by the looks of it, she knew that she had to step in. She kept her cool under pressure while checking on the victims and worked with the others on the scene to get medical and police units out to the crash site. Patsy waited with the victims until help arrived and after making sure all was well she was back on her way. **PPO Patsy Adams, we see you, and you're looking good!**

Once again **PPO Leslie Jones** went above and beyond the call of duty, when she spent her Sunday enrolling a youth in the Youth Challenge Program (YCP) and spending her own money to buy all of her supplies! **PPO Leslie Jones, we see you, and you are looking good!**

**Transport Officer Paul Kopan**, famous for his weekend outings for zydeco dancing, tennis matches or fishing, went above the call of duty and sacrificed his Sunday to transport kids to YCP interviews in Minden. **Thanks Mr. Paul, we see you, and you're looking good!**

## Shout out

A shout-out to **PPOs Andrew Bonner** and **Larry Aaron** for changing yet another flat tire on our transport van. Thanks, y'all, you're the best.



## Kudos

A big thank-you goes out to the entire staff of Baton Rouge OJJ. Following a busy work week, many were looking forward to the weekend. However, as it sometimes happens in our line of work, something came up and threw all our plans off kilter. On Friday, as some were preparing to go home, we were called in to help out on weekend shifts at Bridge City. At the request of **RM Michelle Thomas**, plans were cancelled, schedules were rearranged, and as always, we got it done! Kudos to Baton Rouge OJJ for stepping up and making it happen for the good of the agency!

## Alexandria Regional Office

New **PPO1 Justin Guidry** is attending the P&P Academy in Baton Rouge. We wish Justin well.

We congratulate **PPS Pamela Oakes** on her retirement, with 21 ½ years of state service. Pam will be greatly missed, as she was the person we all went to for “extras” (candy, medicine, tool box, stamps, change, etc.). We extend our best wishes for happiness and good health in her retirement years.

Congratulations to **PPO3 Rodney McNeal** and his bride, **Vanessa Baptiste McNeal**, who exchanged marriage vows September 3. We wish Rodney and Vanessa a lifetime of happiness.

Deepest sympathy goes out to the family of retired OJJ **Administrative Coordinator 3 Marilyn Williams**. Marilyn retired in October, 2006, with 33 years of state service. Marilyn passed away September 2.

## Ain't Lyin'....

*Here's a vacation possibility: a chance to feed lions in Australia, up close and personal!*



*This is the Werribee Open Range Zoo in Victoria, Australia. Only the hood of the car is outside the glass cage with lions. The rest of the car is on the inside.*

**Recipe of the Month**  
**BCCY Culinary Arts & Occupations**  
**Chef Ronald J. Sonnier, CEC**



I'm back! My knee is now as good as the steel that went into it. I am really happy to be back with my students. They were anxious to get back into class and start cooking again. We are getting things ready for a fun day coming up and we are making a lot of cookies for the students to enjoy.

For this month's recipe I thought that I would include a recipe we did for the MacArthur Foundation at their last visit to BCCY - Shrimp and Grits.



## New Orleans Shrimp and Grits



Serves 6

1 lb. peeled and cleaned shrimp  
 Tony Chachere's Original seasoning  
 1 stick salted butter  
 2 cups sliced mushrooms  
 1-1/2 tbsp. minced garlic

1 bunch green onions, sliced  
 2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce  
 2 tbsp. wine or sherry, optional  
 black pepper  
 grits

1. Season shrimp with Tony Chachere's Original Creole Seasoning. Set aside.
2. Melt butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Sauté mushrooms for 5 minutes. Add garlic and green onions and sauté for about 10 minutes. Add shrimp and cook until they are pink. Add Worcestershire sauce and wine or sherry, if using.
3. Season with Creole seasoning and black pepper to taste. Serve over grits, angel hair pasta or mashed potatoes.

### **Grits**

2 cups seafood stock  
 1 cup quick-cooking grits  
 3 tbsp. salted butter  
 1-1/2 tsp. garlic, minced  
 1 tsp.(or more) Tony Chachere's

1/2 cup heavy cream  
 2 oz. sharp cheddar cheese, grated  
 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese  
 green onions, chopped, for garnish  
 chopped parsley, for garnish

1. Bring seafood stock to a rolling boil. Add grits, butter, garlic and Creole seasoning and whisk for 5 minutes.
2. Add cream and cheddar cheese and continue to cook for 2 minutes. Place in a casserole dish, sprinkle with Parmesan cheese and place in warm oven until ready to serve.
3. Top with shrimp sauce. Sprinkle with green onions and parsley.

Bon appetit - Chef Ron Sonnier

# The Inside Scoop...of OJJ

*The Inside Scoop...of OJJ* is published monthly to communicate with and about OJJ staff in offices and facilities throughout the state, about agency activities, happenings and items of interest.

*The Inside Scoop...of OJJ* is produced by the Central Office with input from staff statewide.

...until next month

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